

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for producing a disc shaped optical line, comprising:
a laser source for producing radiant energy;
a radiant energy altering device, and wherein radiant energy projected from said laser source into said radiant energy altering device emerges from said radiant energy altering device in a disc shaped pattern;
a curved reflector member with a mirrored reflecting surface positioned between said laser source and said radiant energy altering device, said curved reflector member having a channel therein through which radiant energy from said laser source is projected towards said radiant energy altering device, and
a cone shaped member having a polished surface, and wherein said radiant energy from said laser source strikes said radiant energy altering device and produces a disc of radiant energy that in turn strikes a surface of said curved reflector member and is reflected onto said polished surface of said cone shaped member, and wherein said radiant energy is reflected from said cone shaped member in a ring configuration to thereby produce a disc shaped optical line.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said curved reflector member is a concave cylindrically shaped reflector member.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said curved reflector member is a conical in shape.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said curved reflector member is a parabolic in shape.
5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said device is in the form of a hollow tube within a hollow tube.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said radiant energy altering device is in the form of a capillary array.

7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said radiant energy altering device is in the form of a hollow tube.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said radiant energy altering device is in the form of a hollow tube within a hollow tube.

9. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said radiant energy altering device is in the form of a fiber optic rod.